

HONORING JOHN R. LASSEN, JR.

## HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and passing of Mr. John R. Lassen, Jr., a lifelong teacher in Tempe, Arizona, and a nationally distinguished innovator in secondary education.

A native fourth generation Arizonan, John served his country in the United States Air Force after graduating from high school in Tempe. Following his distinguished service to his country, John returned home to attend Arizona State University on a basketball scholarship, where he earned both a bachelor and a master's degree in mathematics.

John's heart never left Tempe—his passion was mathematics. He loved teaching in his hometown at Marcos De Niza and Mountain Pointe High Schools for nearly forty years, eventually serving as Mathematics Department Chairman for the Tempe Unified School District.

Under the administration of President George H. W. Bush, Mr. Lassen earned the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, for which he was honored at the White House Rose Garden and the U.S. State Department. Mr. Lassen also initiated a dual-credit collaboration between Tempe public schools and Rio Salado College, offered first at Mr. Lassen's own Mountain Pointe High School and later throughout the greater Phoenix area. For this, he was given the President's Award for dedication and commitment to education in Arizona from the President of Rio Salado College.

It was to the great benefit of Tempe, his community, and the state of Arizona that Mr. Lassen served so dutifully and lived so well. I ask that my colleagues join me in posthumously recognizing Mr. Lassen and extending our condolences to his family.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

## HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,094,608,381.03. We've added \$6,111,217,559,467.95 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## RECOGNIZING JONATHAN "TIG" WILLARD

## HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jonathan "Tig" Willard

from Loris, South Carolina today for his commendable bravery and act of selflessness. While driving to training camp for the Tennessee Titans this past Tuesday, he noticed a car with black smoke billowing out of it. Jonathan signaled for the car to pull over and helped to rescue the driver, her three children, and her dog as the car was engulfed in flames.

A native of the Seventh District of South Carolina, Jonathan is an exemplary football player who led Clemson University's defense in tackles last season and now plays at the professional level. However, it is an act like this—one that puts the safety of others before the safety of self—that demonstrates Jonathan's compassion and character. I commend his efforts, as this is a reminder that we should all keep our eyes open for ways to be a Good Samaritan and help our fellow neighbors.

## THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANDLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

## HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Handley Regional Library in Winchester, Virginia.

The original Handley Library building has long been an important architectural and historical site in Winchester. It first opened in 1913 and was designed by architects J. Stewart Barney and Henry Otis Chapman.

The growth and change the library has gone through over the past 100 years has been extraordinary. In 1915, the library's annual attendance was 52,902. Today, more than 357,000 guests visit the facility each year. The collection of books and periodicals has expanded significantly as well. The library's collection totaled 6,000 in 1915; today, the collection contains over 302,000 books, magazines and digital materials, including audio books, e-books, CDs and DVDs.

The library's growth over the years is due in part to the growth in the Shenandoah Valley region. Today, the population served by the library is 120,000, an increase of nearly 100,000 since 1915.

Additionally, Handley Library is unique because it is one of three libraries in the regional system. It became regional when Frederick County joined the system in 1979 and Clarke County joined in 1981. Regional systems ensure the libraries can all provide excellent services without duplicating administrative costs. This has saved taxpayers money, which is crucial during these economically challenging times.

Handley Regional Library is a treasure for the northern Shenandoah Valley community. From computer literacy programs, to youth and adult programs, to the vast collection of regional history and genealogy located in its outstanding archives section, the library provides exceptional facilities and services for area residents.

The success of the library today is due to director Trish Ridgeway and the entire library staff, as well as the generous support of the Friends of Handley Library and its many volunteers.

I would like to particularly recognize the efforts of Trish Ridgeway, who during her 20 years as its director has overseen several of the regional library system's construction projects, including the major renovation of the original library building in Winchester. As she prepares to retire at the end of September, I want to thank Trish for her leadership and wish her all the best for retirement.

There will be a gala celebration in honor of the 100th anniversary at Handley Library on August 24, 2013. Congratulations to the library, its staff and the volunteers as they celebrate this very important milestone.

## DIVISION IN CYPRUS

## HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, in mid-May, twenty-three of my colleagues joined me in sending a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations to encourage the newly elected Greek Cypriot leader and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart to resume talks aimed at expediently resolving the ongoing dispute over a divided Cyprus. A negotiated and mutually acceptable comprehensive settlement, based on a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation is vital to the region. I support international and domestic efforts to achieve such a resolution and urge the House of Representatives to encourage constructive dialogue between the two sides. In 2003, the House unanimously adopted H. Res. 165 in support of the Annan Plan, which would have approved the creation of a reunified Partnership State in Cyprus as a loose federation of two component states—the Greek Cypriot State and the Turkish Cypriot State. Unfortunately, this historic opportunity was rejected by Greek Cypriots through a referendum on the island.

Although a majority of Turkish Cypriots approved the peace plan also by referendum, an opportunity of historic proportions was missed. Many would attribute the Greek Cypriots rejection of the Annan Plan and pro-division choice to becoming European Union (EU) members, which followed this move. At that time, it was believed that EU accession was predicated on solving this division after the fact. Subsequently, there has been no progress in this regard, further indicating a pro-division State. While the Greek Cypriots enjoy recognition as a sovereign state, there has been no imputes for them to solve the problem. Despite promises made to Turkish Cypriots over and over again, they still remain isolated.

Over ten years have gone by without any progress on this issue. This year may once again be a year of opportunity to put an end to the status quo. We should be courageous enough to encourage a solution in Cyprus, and creative enough to promote a more secure, stable and prosperous Eastern Mediterranean where Greece, Turkey, a unified Cyprus, together with their allies and partners in the region, work together to build a better future.

With the firm belief that such an outcome is not only achievable, but will also set an invaluable example of peace and cooperation in the region and beyond, I urge the Administration to encourage the United Nations Secretary

General to enhance his efforts in reaching a comprehensive and just solution in Cyprus.

EDWARD R. MURROW HIGH  
SCHOOL'S NATIONAL CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate my alma mater Edward R. Murrow High School for winning the 2013 National High School Chess Championship. This is the eighth time that my alma mater has won this prestigious title.

Edward R. Murrow's chess team, along with more than 5000 students from across the country, vied for the national title in Nashville, Tennessee. Murrow trumped the competition and came away with the top prize.

Murrow's championship chess team hails from a diverse background reflective of the multicultural and vibrant communities that call Brooklyn, New York home.

I am tremendously proud of the team's talented young men and women, who worked hard to perfect their skills. I also want to acknowledge their coach, Mr. Eliot Weiss, who helped the students hone their talents, while offering guidance and mentorship throughout the year.

This victory was no easy feat. It was only through hard work, tenacity, and long hours spent perfecting the craft that they were able to claim the title.

Through judicious choice and astute strategy, Murrow's chess team has again proven that they are some of the most proficient and accomplished in the sport.

I feel honored to call myself an alumna of such a distinguished institution, which has a long history of shaping the sharp and analytic minds of New York's most promising youth.

Once again, I say congratulations to Edward R. Murrow's Chess Team for a job well done!

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTH-  
WEST FLORIDA'S BLUFORD  
WARD

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Bluford Ward, who passed away on July 25, 2013. During his life, Bluford made it his mission to engage with his neighbors, reaching out to hear their concerns and assist them in any way he could. The loss of this great man is felt across the entire Northwest Florida community.

Bluford was born on August 18, 1939 and was raised in the small and historic Coon Hill community of Santa Rosa County, Florida. He attended Allentown High School where he met and married his beloved companion of fifty-four years, Betty Crutchfield.

In his lifetime, Bluford was a trusted and valuable employee for many local companies. In his earlier years, he worked for American

Cyanamid. He also worked as a car salesman for several dealerships in both Florida and Alabama. It was a position that suited him well, providing him an opportunity to talk with his "neighbors" about the concerns of the day, as well as helping them find the best deal possible. An avid hunter, Bluford served as a hunting guide in Colorado and Wyoming. He built a reputation on working and tooling hunting rifles and scopes and worked at a variety of sporting stores, including Mike's Outdoor Sports, Scott's Outdoor Sports, and most recently Owen's Outfitters. Outside of the workplace, Bluford loved tinkering around the house and maintaining a vegetable garden.

Bluford will always be remembered as a good neighbor, outdoorsman, and one of Central High School Jaguars biggest fans. But above all, he was a dedicated family man and a devoted Christian. Bluford is survived by the love of his life, Betty; their three daughters: Sherry (Reed) Compton of Auburn, Alabama; Jennifer (Lee) Langham of Jay, Florida; and Terry (Bart) Bray of Jay, Florida; four granddaughters: Chloe Compton, Arissa Bray, Paige Bray and Kolby Bray; five sisters, and one brother, numerous nieces, nephews, and man's best friend, Hope.

Family, friends, and neighbors mourn the loss of a man with a genuine smile, loving heart, and unwavering compassion.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Bluford Ward. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, Betty, his family, and friends. He will be truly missed.

### CONGRATULATING UZBEKISTAN ON ITS INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Uzbekistan on 22 years of independence. The United States has supported Uzbekistan's sovereignty following its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Uzbekistan is a key partner in supporting international efforts in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan has supported North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops in Afghanistan through provision of electricity, development of rail infrastructures and the Northern Distribution Network. Uzbekistan was the United States' main regional partner in the war on terrorism.

But our relationship with Uzbekistan has developed beyond Afghanistan. I commend President Islam Karimov for strengthening U.S.-Uzbekistan relations and for providing stability in one of the world's tougher neighborhoods. Under his leadership, the United States and Uzbekistan are cooperating on security, economic relations, political and civil society issues, agricultural development, transnational crime, and the threat of infectious disease.

As a result of strong bilateral relations between our countries, Uzbekistan is becoming an attractive investment location for United States companies including Coca-Cola, Case New Holland, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Caterpillar, and others. Just last year, 50 executives from top United States companies took part in the annual Uzbekistan-U.S. Business Forum.

With the largest population in Central Asia and a fast-growing economy, Uzbekistan is also a major producer of energy and minerals. Uranium is one of Uzbekistan's largest exports to the United States.

Uzbekistan's history spans more than 2,500 years. Samarkand is the second largest city in Uzbekistan and is as old as Rome, Athens and Babylon. Samarkand is one of the most important cities in Central Asia. It is the city of legends. Registan Square is considered an architectural gem representing the finest in Islamic art. The Mausoleum of Tamerlane houses a massive slab of green jade under which Tamerlane the conqueror is buried, and is thought to be the largest such stone in the world. Today, Samarkand is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Once an important trading center at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road connecting Asia and Europe, Uzbekistan is, again, emerging as a regional and global leader. And so, it is my honor to congratulate President Karimov and the people of Uzbekistan on their Independence Day and to extend to them my best wishes for a bright and prosperous future.

### HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES MUST 'INTERFERE' IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this week the U.S. and China will hold its annual human rights dialogue—a dialogue that began after the brutal Tiananmen Square crackdown 24 years ago.

Nearly a quarter of a century later the Chinese government remains frightened by the spirit that animated that protest. A June 23 Washington Post article reported that, "In the 2½ decades since the protests' violent end, China's government has largely scrubbed Tiananmen from history."

Try as they might the Chinese government's "Orwellian" efforts to erase this unpleasant event from its history books are incomplete. There are those still living with the scars of that day—both emotional and physical. In 1991, Congressman CHRIS SMITH and I traveled to China. We visited Beijing Prison Number One, which at the time housed approximately 40 Tiananmen Square protesters. While our request to visit the demonstrators was denied, we left with a pair of socks, made by the prisoners, for export to the West.

The abuses of Tiananmen are not simply the stuff of history. The State Department's most recent human rights report found that, "Repression and coercion, particularly against organizations and individuals involved in rights advocacy and public interest issues, were routine. Individuals and groups seen as politically sensitive by authorities continued to face tight restrictions on their freedom to assemble, practice religion, and travel. Efforts to silence and intimidate political activists and public interest lawyers continued to increase. Authorities resorted to extralegal measures such as enforced disappearance, 'soft detention,' and strict house arrest, including house arrest of family members, to prevent the public voicing of independent opinions."